effect from the year 2000-01 it was merged under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture—Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plans. Under this Scheme assistance of Rs. 9.81 lakhs has been provided to NG Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad for production of quality planting material of aromatic plants, setting up of herbal gardens and nurseries for medicinal plants. Besides assistance to the tune of Rs. 12.83 lakh was provided to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for developing seed production-cum-demonstration plots and area expansion in farmers fields.

(c) and (d) The scheme envisages assistance for setting up of demonstration-cum-seed production plots @ Rs. 1500/- per plot of 0.05 ha. Besides, the assistance for area expansion is 25 per cent of cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 12,500/- per ha for a maximum of four ha per beneficiary. The assistance is available to all the farmers including tribals of Andhra Pradesh.

Availability of pure Basmati Rice

†103. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that pure basmati rice is rarely available;

(b) whether it is also a fact that cultivation of various varieties of pure basmati rice such as type-3 and Nagina-12 has now confined to campus of agricultural universities; and

(c) if so, the details of the action being taken by Government for cultivation of the same on large scale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Basmati rice particularly type-3 and Nagina-12 were popularly known as Basmati Dehradun and Safeda Punjab respectively. These fine

†. Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

grain rice aromatic varieties were of tall stature, poor, fertilizer response, poor yield, having long maturity duration and prone to insect pests and diseases. New Basmati types have been evolved by research system of ICAR & State Agriculture Universities and are being cultivated in large areas due to high yielding potential.

(c) For large scale cultivation the variety should be popular with the farmers. The farmers are generally preferring the varieties with higher yield. For cultivation of Basmati rice, seeds of varieties released recently are being distributed under Central Sector Seed Minikit Programme. Besides, State level Training Programmes and Special orientation Programme on Basmati Rice Production Technology are also being organized for extension workers, district level functionaries and trainers who are associated with Basmati rice production.

Suicide by farmers in Andhra Pradesh

104. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agricultural farmers who committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years and till February, 2001, year-wise and district-wise;

(b) whether any study has been conducted to find out the reasons for suicide either at Union or State level; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and what action is being taken to help the farmers to overcome their financial and other related problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to take necessary action in this regard. As per information received from the State Government in November, 2000, 5 farmers during 1999-2000 and 22 farmers during 2000-01 committed suicides, the main reasons being crop loss and indebtedness. The 22 suicides